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November 10, 2015

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## Celebrate Placer County's bounty

Supervisor's column

By: Placer County Board of Supervisor Jim Holmes



One of the great things I get to do as a Placer County supervisor is help to promote all of the great things our region has to offer.

At our Oct. 6 Board of Supervisors meeting, my fellow board members and I officially proclaimed the month of October to be "Celebrate PlacerGROWN Month" for the fourth year in a row.

In making this proclamation, we encourage Placer County citizens to support local farmers and ranchers during the month of October and beyond by buying locally-grown agricultural

products.

Placer County farmers provide a wide variety of agricultural products including grains, tree fruit, grapes, livestock and forest products. Rice growers in our county produce more than 15,000 acres of medium- and short-grain rice, making this food staple Placer County's No. 1 commodity and mandarins grown in our county are world famous for their consistent quality, flavor and dark orange color.

It is also worth noting that our local wineries consistently win top honors at state, national and international competitions. We really do have it all!

Although we are highlighting Placer County agriculture this month, an impressive variety of farm-fresh products are available at farmers' markets throughout the county, including the year-round market in Auburn. Our local products are also available on a daily basis at several local stores including Blue Goose Produce and Newcastle Produce.

And, if you are interested in going straight to the source, many of our local farms are open to the public for business.

Another way to support our local farmers *and* treat yourself to Placer-grown foods is to request their products at local restaurants and stores. This is also something you can do year round, not just in October.

I feel very strongly about supporting Placer County agriculture as it is a huge part of our heritage.

Our county's agricultural history dates back to 1849, when early settlers discovered our rich soils, clean water and ideal growing climate.

Since that time, our farming community has built a legacy of agricultural production and Celebrate PlacerGROWN Month is a great way to celebrate that legacy.

Buying locally grown and produced agricultural products helps to support our farmers as well as the overall agricultural economy in Placer County.



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If you have not had the opportunity to get out and test some of these products yourself, now is the perfect time to do so!

Throughout October, a number of events are aimed at introducing people to the bounty that Placer County farmers have to offer. These food-focused events are family-friendly and fun, and are a great way to meet new people and experience all that our county has to offer.

Take a look at the PlacerGROWN website ([placergrown.org](http://placergrown.org)) for information on local farms and farmers' markets, as well as information on all of the great events celebrating Placer County agriculture this month.

I plan to be at as many of these events as I can and I hope to see you there!

*Jim Holmes is the Placer County Supervisor for District 3, which covers Loomis, North Auburn, Ophir, Newcastle, Penryn and most of Rocklin. To contact Holmes, call (530) 889-4010 or email [jholmes@placer.ca.gov](mailto:jholmes@placer.ca.gov).*

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